

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 959
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN
USIA WASHDC
DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 8587

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE, XF
SUBJECT: DECEMBER 16 SYRIAN MEDIA REVIEW

1. MEDIA HIGHLIGHTED DEC. 15 MEETING BETWEEN QUADRIpartite
COMMITTEE AND YASIR ARAFAT IN BEIRUT. AL-BAATH BANNERED:
"FOLLOWING ITS CONTACT WITH ALL PARTIES IN LEBANON AMIDST
ATMOSPHERE OF UNDERSTANDING AND RESPONSIVENESS, QUADRIpartite
COMMITTEE WILL ANNOUNCE TODAY PLAN TO COLLECT HEAVY WEAPONS."
PRESS ARTICLE NOTED THAT DURING ARAFAT MEETING CONFEREES
DISCUSSED 1969 CAIRO AGREEMENT AND, CITING LT. GEN. SHAIR,
COOPERATE IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS AGREEMENT.

2. AL-BAATH COLUMNIST EXPRESSED HOPE THAT ALL TEBANESE
FACTIONS WILL ANNOUNCE THEIR ACCEPTANCE OF HEAVY WEAPONS
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COLLECTION. OTHERWISE, HE WARNED, "ADF WILL BE COMPELLED
TO ADOPT (STRONGER MEASURES) TO ENSURE THERE IS NO
BACKSLIDING. THIS EXPLAINS WHY SARKIS REITERATED HE WILL
NOT TOLERATE VIOLATORS. WITHER EVERYBODY IS TREATED
EQUALLY, OR ELSE CHAOS WILL CONTINUE, AND THIS WE WILL NOT
ALLOW."

3. CONCERNING REGIONAL ISSUES, OFFICIAL SARG SPOKESMAN DENIED IRAQI "FABRICATION" THAT SYRIA BEHIND BAGHDAD AIRPORT EXPLOSION. SPOKESMAN ALLEGED THAT "TREACHEROUS TRIBAL TAKRITI REGIME WANTS TO COVER UP CRIMES IT HAS COMMITTED IN SYRIA, SOME OF WHICH WE HAVE TALKED ABOUT IN PAST AND SOME OF WHICH WE WILL REVEAL IN FUTURE."

4. UNREST IN WEST BANK RECEIVED PROMINENT ATTENTION. AL-THAWRAH HEADLINED: "WORLD NEWS MEDIA--WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP REVOLUTION TURNS INTO POPULAR DELUGE AGAINST OCCUPATION. ENEMY CONFRONTS REBEL ARAB MASSES WITH CAMPAIGNS OF SUPPRESSION, SIEGE AND CURFEWS."

5. MEDIA CONTINUE TO PREPARE SYRIAN PUBLIC FOR UPCOMING VISIT TO CAIRO BY ASAD. TISHRIIN HEADLINED: "CAIRO PINS GREAT IMPORTANCE ON PRES. ASAD'S VISIT. OFFICIAL AND POPULAR INTEREST FOCUSSES ON JOINT ACTION IN MOVEMENT TOWARD FUTURE." ARTICLE CITED POLITICAL SOURCES IN CAIRO WHO BELIEVE ASAD'S VISIT WILL USHER IN NEW PHASE OF JOINT ARAB ACTION " CHARACTERIZED BY INITIATIVES ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE."

6. MEDIA REPORTED CABLE OF APPRECIATION FROM PLO CENTRAL COUNCIL TO PRES. ASAD EXPRESSIOO ITS SATISFACTION WITH CC-ASAD MEETING CONDUCTED IN "POSITIVE SPIRIT." TISHRIIN COLUMNIST PRAISED SYRO-PALESTINIAN UNITY IN CONFRONTATION WITH ISRAEL. HE CANDIDLY OBSERVED THAT, "ALTHOUGH THESE RELATIONS WERE LUKEWARM FOR A PERIOD OF TIME, HISTORICAL RESPONSIBILITY REQUIRES THEIR ENHANCEMENT." AL-THAWRAH COLUMNIST UNCLASSIFIED

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ASSERTED THAT UNTIL PNC CONVENES NEXT FEBRUARY, "SUCCESS CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED ON PALESTINIAN SCENE BY ADHERENCE TO PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES STIPULATED IN PLO CC COMMUNIQUE."

7. PRESS REPORTED THAT POLITICAL COMMITTEE AT ARAB JOURNALISTS CONFERENCE HAS ADOPTED WORKING PAPER SUBMITTED BY SYRIAN DELEGATION APPEALING FOR STRENGTHENING OF ARAB UNITY AND RETURN OF OCTOBER 1973 SPIRIT TO MOBILIZE ARAB ENERGIES.
MURPHY

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